

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2001-172-C - ORDER NO. 2001-933
SEPTEMBER 13, 2001

IN RE: Application of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Approval of an Increase in its Rates and Charges.) ORDER GRANTING) CONTINUANCE OF) HEARING AND) EXTENSION TO) PREFILE TESTIMONY) AND EXHIBITS
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the request of the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina ("Consumer Advocate") for a three week continuance of the hearing presently scheduled for September 27, 2001, and for an extension of time for the prefilng of testimony and exhibits of the Commission Staff and intervenors in order to conform with a newly scheduled hearing date. The Consumer Advocate requests this continuance based on the necessity to complete discovery. As justification for the request, the Consumer Advocate states that discovery has been delayed due to the Applicant, Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("HTC"), refileing a portion of its Application exhibits after the audit of the Commission Staff. The Consumer Advocate further provides that HTC, after objecting to portions of the Consumer Advocate's discovery, provided responses but not in time for the Consumer Advocate to sufficiently complete his case. Additionally, the Consumer Advocate's follow-up interrogatories were served on HTC on Friday, September 7, 2001, and answers from HTC were expected early in the following week.

The Consumer Advocate also adds that he does not believe that any party would be prejudiced by the continuance or that any problems would be caused to the Commission Staff in timely completing its work in this matter.

Upon consideration of this request, the Commission finds that good cause has been shown to grant the request for a three week continuance of hearing and an extension to pre-file testimony and exhibits.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Consumer Advocate for South Carolina is granted a three week continuance of hearing with a newly scheduled hearing date of **October 12, 2001 at 10:30 a.m.**

2. The prefiling dates for testimony and exhibits are extended, thus, twenty-five copies of the testimony and exhibits of the Commission Staff and/or intervenors shall be prefiled on or before **September 27, 2001**. (Material may be post marked on these dates.) Any rebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be prefiled on or before **October 8, 2001**, and any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be prefiled on or before **October 10, 2001**. (Material must be in the offices of the Commission and in the hands of the parties on these dates.) Additionally, all other rules and regulations pertaining to prefile dates are in effect as set forth in Order 2001-689 issued July 27, 2001.

3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Chairman

ATTEST:



Executive Director
(SEAL)